

NORTH DORSET BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

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North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mr Robert Baird - Chair Mr Mark Burnell Mrs Lesley Gasson Mr Gordon Grant Mr Julian Grazebrook Mr Terence Payne Mr Grant Stenhouse
Principal Office	The White House, Shillingstone, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 0SF
Charity Registration Number	1193201
Bankers	Lloyds Bank, Blandford Branch, PO Box 1000, BX1 1LT
Independent Examiner	Mr Peter Robbins FCA 25 Edwina Drive, Poole, Dorset BH17 7JG

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report, together with the financial statements of the charity, for the year ended 30 September 2025.

Objectives

The North Dorset Beekeepers Association aims to advance the education of the public and existing beekeepers in the craft of beekeeping and the importance of bees in the environment. It provides basic and advanced training in accordance with the policies of the British Beekeepers Association, keeps qualified members up to date with current thinking and good practice, and attends local events to help educate the general public about the importance of bees in the environment and the threats they face.

Trustees

Trustees are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting held in November. The Chair of Trustees is elected at the first Trustees Meeting following the AGM.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no remuneration or benefits.

Organisation and Governance

The routine management of Association activities is delegated to a Management Committee. An additional sub-committee, The New Apiary Working Group, was also established by the Trustees to exercise close control over the raising of funds and construction of the proposed Honey Bee Centre.

Association Policies are published on our website. In line with recommended best practice, each is reviewed annually by Trustees.

Financial Review

The charity had a gross income during the year of £138,396 (£91,092 2024) which generated a total surplus net income for the year of £123,923 (£79,532 2024). A breakdown of the performance appears in the attached Statement of Financial Activities.

All income received by Association, whether from ongoing operations or from donations, is credited to the general reserves. At the start of the Honey Bee Centre Fundraising Project in 2023 the Trustees agreed that a minimum balance should be maintained in retained general reserves at all times and that any surplus revenue generated should be transferred to a designated reserve which would be used initially to fund the Honey Bee Centre and the relocation of the existing teaching apiary. A retained balance of £5,000 in the general reserve has been deemed adequate to meet the annual working capital requirements of the Association; the Trustees review the adequacy of this Reserve annually. At a Trustee's meeting on 28 October 2025, the trustees approved the transfer of £126,390 from general reserve to the designated reserve fund.

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Any costs which are directly attributable to the construction of the Honey Bee Centre are capitalised; however certain smaller cost items, such as projection units or security cameras are written off against the designated reserve in full in the year that they were incurred.

Due to the level of income received, the charity is required to have an independent examination.

Review of Current Association Status and Future Development

The Association's current activities are limited by the size and location of the teaching apiary. To rectify this, the Association signed a 25-year lease agreement for land near the existing apiary, and obtained planning permission to erect a new building for training and related purposes. It will be called the North Dorset Honey Bee Centre and will have the teaching apiary and parking located adjacent to the building, so that future tuition will all be on one site. This increased flexibility will enable the Association to reach out into the community, introducing more people to bees and beekeeping and the impact bees have on our daily life, food security, and biodiversity. At the same time, it will remove access limitations caused by the physically demanding route to the current teaching apiary and the lack of facilities on the site.

The Association has raised £118,247 during this financial year from grants and donations made by charitable trusts, foundations, local government, businesses, and individuals. Of this, £101,275 is recorded as received within the Financial Statements and a firm commitment has been received for £16,972, which will be paid upon completion of specific work schedules. To date, this brings the total funds received and allocated to the project since fundraising first began to £256,226. This generosity allowed the Trustees to commit to starting work on the building project in October 2024. By the end of September 2025 the building infrastructure was complete and the final fitting out was taking place. The building is expected to be available for use from the end of November 2025 and it is planned that the apiary is moved from its current location in the Forum School during the winter. A formal opening is planned for Spring 2026.

Review of Activities of the Association

In planning our activities, we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefits.

The main activities of the Association are:

Training

A number of formal training courses, for which fees are charged, are run to:

- provide future beekeepers with the practical experience and theoretical knowledge to manage bees in a sustainable manner throughout the year.
- improve the knowledge of existing beekeepers on current best practice, good husbandry and pests and diseases.
- give students the knowledge required to sit the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA) advanced modular exams. The modules (7 in total) cover various aspects of beekeeping such as bee management, pests and diseases, bee biology, etc. Courses covering these modules are run by North Dorset BKA instructors for the benefit of all Dorset registered beekeepers.

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Examples of training during the year include:

Beginners and Second Year Course

The annual Beginners Course was held from April - August 2025, following our established format of 12 practical afternoon lessons following a full Introduction Day. 30 new beekeepers attended as students, with an additional 5 potential new beekeepers also attending the Introduction Day. At the end of the course, we believe that the students should feel comfortable working with bees and be in a position to own their own colonies. For those who wish to continue learning, we run a Second Year Course throughout the summer. which was this year attended by 13 beekeepers.

Modules (for written examinations)

32 beekeepers from various associations attend 4 sperate modules, covering Honey Bee Management, Products and Foraging, Behaviour and Selection & Breeding.

Practical Courses

27 beekeepers attended practical courses on queen rearing and skep making.

The Association continues to be indebted to the tutors and other volunteers who put in so much effort within their free time to make all the programme such a success.

Bee Experience Days

Originally conceived as fundraisers, Bee Experience Days have now become part of the Association's annual calendar of activities, with three events scheduled for May and June. These are designed as an introduction to bees and beekeeping for the general public and have proved to be very popular. Attendees are introduced in a 'hands on manner' to the basics of beekeeping through a short lecture, followed by a visit to the teaching apiary to open a hive and gain an understanding of how bees behave, collect pollen and nectar (to produce honey), and reproduce. 44 people paid a fee to attend these days; a number of the attendees have subsequently applied to do the Beginners Course.

Lectures

Over the winter months, the association has organised evening lectures on beekeeping related subjects.

Public Interaction

Shows

In the past 12 months, the association has participated in a number of local agricultural shows and community events.

- The largest of these, the Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show, included live bee observation hives, beeswax candle rolling, skep-making, and information displays, over a two-day period, as well as providing an opportunity for the public to learn about and purchase pure local honey. This year, members of Sherborne Beekeepers Association also participated, and provided one of the two live bee exhibits.
- A very successful Honey Show was also held in the marquee in association with the displays.

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- Talks were given to several village gardening clubs and other community groups.
- A honey information display and sales point was mounted over two days at the Sturminster Newton Cheese Festival in September.

Rescues

Members of the Association have responded to many requests from the general public to help with swarms and established bee colonies; in a number of cases, we have cut out bee nests from the fabric of buildings, often in response to these being discovered by builders undertaking renovation work. No charge is made for this work, although donations for the new apiary are welcomed. As the Association's reputation for providing an efficient and friendly service has grown, so too the number of requests for this public service has increased.

General Information

- The local and free New Blackmore Vale Magazine is published in both paper and electronic form, and the association has provided regular articles on bees and beekeeping.
- Asian hornets, a massive threat to bees and all other pollinating insects, are now well established on Continental Europe and the Channel Isles and are attempting to establish themselves in the UK. Information displays have been mounted to alert the public to this danger and to enlist their help in spotting these invaders. Our Asian Hornet Action Team has been ready to support DEFRA/National Bee Unit to check on reported sightings.

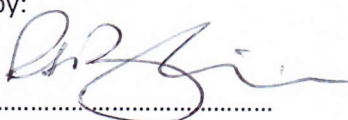
All these activities are of direct benefit to the public and no charges are made, except for attendance on formal courses to cover the equipment costs incurred.

Summary

It has been a busy year, but the association is at the limit of the activities it can undertake, principally because inaccessibility and inadequacy of facilities at our existing apiary restricts the amount of teaching and familiarisation that can be undertaken. Trustees are delighted by the successful fundraising this year, and that the construction of the new apiary and Honey Bee Centre is now nearing completion

We are extremely grateful for the huge number of hours volunteers have given to the charity in helping raise funds, assisting in training and at local shows and events as well as doing all the work required to keep the Association running. This is a massive achievement, and we hope members will take great pride from what has been done to date, and in the opportunities it creates for the future.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on *23 October* 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Robert J Baird

Chair of Trustees

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of North Dorset Beekeepers Association

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30 September 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

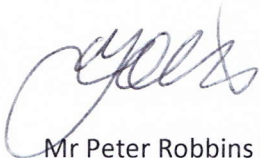
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr Peter Robbins FCA
25 Edwina Drive, Poole, Dorset BH17 7JG
Date: 13 October 2025

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Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£ Designated	£ General	£ Designated	£ General
Income					
Grants, Donations and Legacies	2	-	111,275	-	66,288
Investment Income	3	-	5,261	-	2,433
Membership Income		-	5,788	-	5,824
Training Income		-	9,853	-	10,408
Fund raising and Beekeeping Activities	4	-	6,219	-	6,139
Total Income		-	138,396	-	91,092
Expenditure					
Membership Costs		-	4,120	-	4,123
Cost of Fundraising and Beekeeping Activities		-	7,886	-	7,437
Costs directly attributable to Honey Bee Centre		2,467	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	5	2,467	12,006	-	11,560
Net Movement in Funds		(2,467)	126,390	-	79,532
Reconciliation of Movement in Funds					
Total Funds Brought Forward		132,303	5,000	52,771	5,000
Increase (decrease) in Funds during Year		(2,467)	126,390	-	79,532
Transfer		126,390	(126,390)	79,532	(79,532)
Total Funds Carried Forward	11	256,226	5,000	132,303	5,000

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

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Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 September 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets	8	<u>199,649</u>	<u>-</u>
Current Assets			
Bank	9	<u>66,723</u>	<u>139,409</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>5,146</u>	<u>2,106</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>61,577</u>	<u>137,303</u>
Net Assets		<u>261,226</u>	<u>137,303</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted – General		5,000	5,000
Unrestricted – Designated		<u>256,226</u>	<u>132,303</u>
Total Funds	11	<u>261,226</u>	<u>137,303</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue on 28 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Mr J Grazebrook
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

North Dorset Beekeepers Association

Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2025

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis of preparation

North Dorset Beekeepers Association meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income and endowments

Income including membership, beekeeping activities, donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding are of a general nature and are recognised only when the charity has received the income.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2025

2 Income from grants, donations and legacies

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Grants, Donations and Legacies		
Grants and donations	101,275	66,288
Legacies	10,000	-
	<u>121,275</u>	<u>66,288</u>

Grants and donations include donations from general public and also income tax recovered from HMRC.

3 Investment Income

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Bank Interest	<u>5,261</u>	<u>2,433</u>

4 Income from activities for generating funds

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Fund raising activities	424	258
Sale of Produce	5,795	5,881
	<u>6,219</u>	<u>6,139</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2025

5 Total Resources Expended

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
General Funds		
Cost of Membership paid to National Associations and bee disease insurance	4,120	4,123
Cost of apiary supplies	382	827
Cost of products sold	1,629	2,270
Venue Hire for lectures and tuition	1,182	990
Cost of Events	1,050	473
Consultancy and Other Training	2,426	2,197
Insurance	538	-
General	679	680
Total General Resources Expended	12,006	11,560
Designated Funds		
Costs attributable to Honey Bee Centre and new Apiary	2,467	-
Total Designated Funds Expended	2,467	-
Total Funds Expended	14,473	11,560

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustee , nor any person connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

Trustees are reimbursed for expenses which they have incurred directly on behalf of the charity and are paid for any produce which they supply to the charity and which is sold at the events which are attended by the charity.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

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Notes to the Financial Statements for Year ended 30 September 2025

8 Fixed Assets

	Assets under construction £
Cost	
As at 1 October 2024	-
Additions	199,649
As at 30 September 2025	<u>199,649</u>

9 Bank

	2025 £	2024 £
Lloyds Bank Current	5,430	482
Lloyds Bank – Instant Access Interest Bearing	2,770	24,544
COIF Charities Deposit Fund	<u>58,523</u>	<u>114,383</u>
	<u>66,723</u>	<u>139,409</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due in one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts received from members and due to the regional and national beekeeping associations and for bee disease insurance	1,466	1,256
Deposits received for bee suits used by members	450	250
Accruals	<u>3,230</u>	<u>600</u>
	<u>5,146</u>	<u>2,106</u>

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11 Funds

	Balance at 1 October 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfer £	Balance at 30 September 2025 £
Unrestricted					
General	5,000	138,396	12,006	(126,390)	5,000
Designated	132,303	-	2,467	126,390	256,226
	<u>137,303</u>	<u>138,396</u>	<u>14,473</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>261,226</u>

12 Capital Commitments

A commitment had been made before the year end for work on the final Phase 3 construction of the Honey Bee Centre in Shillingstone, Dorset. Orders had been placed for £133,763 to cover the final phase of the construction project, which involved roofing, cladding, fitting out, electrics and plumbing of which work to the value of £20,195 remains outstanding at the year end. Further capital and revenue costs to the value of approximately £46,000 have been identified which are required to complete the fitting out of the Honey Bee Centre and finalising the apiary site; this includes landscaping and the provision of dirty storage for the association's equipment.

